



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

## RESOLUTION

### Designating Juneteenth an Official Holiday in the Town of Hillsborough

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

**WHEREAS**, President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, signed on September 22, 1862, became effective on January 1, 1863, thereby freeing slaves of this nation’s original sin of human bondage throughout much of the United States of America, including North Carolina and the Town of Hillsborough; and

**WHEREAS**, Union General Gordon Granger was dispatched to Galveston, Texas to announce the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and on June 19, 1865 declared the freedom of slaves still held in human bondage in the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is recognized in 47 states, with mostly ceremonial observances and only the State of Texas recognizing Juneteenth as an official state holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue was the first governor to proclaim the observance of Juneteenth in the State of North Carolina in June 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the United States of America does not recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, members of Congress, including Senator Kamala Harris of California and Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, have recently introduced legislation to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday; and

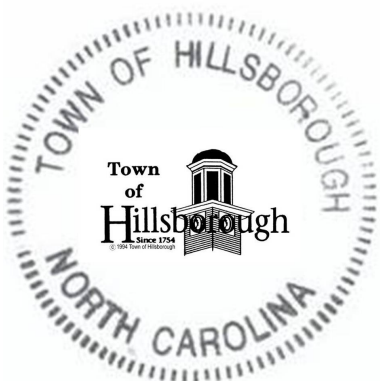
**WHEREAS**, annual observance of Juneteenth would provide residents and employees of the Town of Hillsborough an opportunity to reflect on the impact of slavery and remember those who were enslaved here and their profound contributions to our community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners designates Juneteenth as an official town holiday; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners urges our state and federal legislators to sponsor legislation making Juneteenth an official state and federal holiday; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners directs the town clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Orange County Board of Commissioners, Orange County Board of Education, Chapel Hill Town Council, and the Carrboro Town Council.

Approved this 29th day of June 2020.




Jenn Weaver, Mayor  
Town of Hillsborough